



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Rocky Mountain National Park News Release

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Rocky Mountain National Park Releases Fatality Investigation Report and Park Action Plan for Ranger Jeff Christensen's Accident

Today, Rocky Mountain National Park released the fatality investigation report and park action plan for Ranger Jeff Christensen's accident which occurred on July 29, 2005.

National Park Service Ranger Jeff Christensen, 31, of Fraser, Colorado was killed when he suffered head injuries as a result of a fall. The accident, which was not witnessed, is estimated to have occurred mid afternoon on July 29, while Christensen was on a backcountry patrol in the Mummy Range area of the park. An intensive search and rescue operation was initiated by the park early on the morning of July 30 and then continued under the direction of the National Park Service's Type II Central Incident Management Team. Christensen was discovered at approximately 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2005, by a hiker.

A Serious Accident Investigation Team (SAIT) was convened. The team's role was to gather all pertinent data and facts surrounding the accident. The team has prepared a Factual Report that includes their findings and causal factors for this incident. In addition, Rocky Mountain National Park officials have prepared an Action Plan which responds to the findings and recommendations of the investigation team.

Jeff's parents, Dale and Chris Christensen, said, "We appreciate the support we have received from so many people both during the search for Jeff and the following months. Rocky Mountain National Park, Winter Park and the mountains were very important to Jeff. We are at peace knowing that Jeff was doing something he loved and we are proud of him."

Park Superintendent Vaughn Baker said, "We honor Jeff and all those who protect our parks and visitors by learning from this incident and enhancing the safety of our employees and visitors."

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